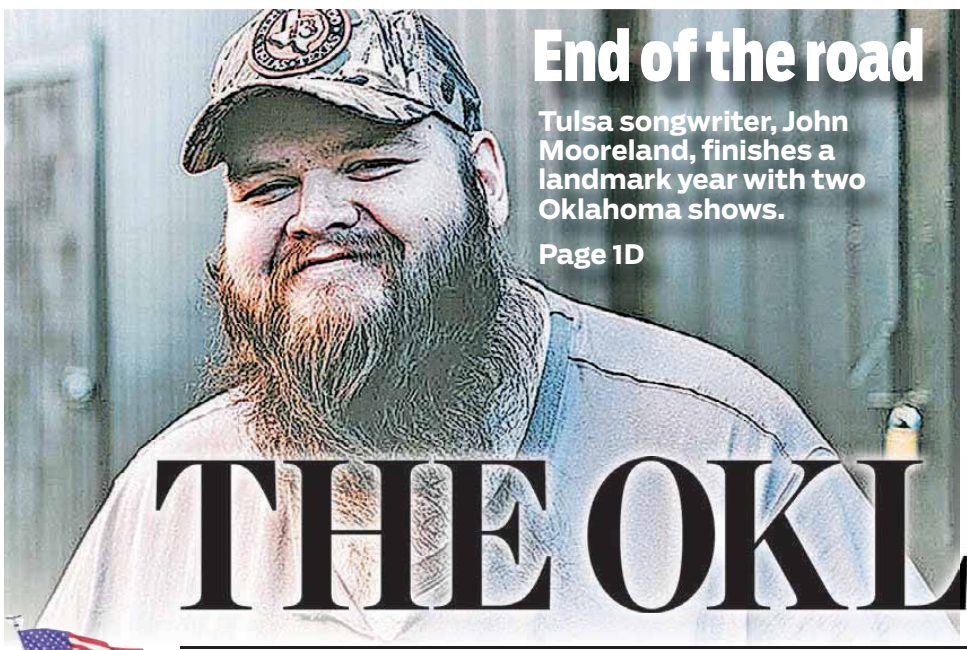

End of the road

Tulsa songwriter, John Mooreland, finishes a landmark year with two Oklahoma shows.

Page 1D

Lost time

Marcell Ateman journeys back to football after missing last season.

Page 1B

THE OKLAHOMAN

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State wants 95 percent reduction in emergency teaching certificates

BY BEN FELDER
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State education leaders have set a goal to reduce the number of emergency teaching certificates to under 60 within seven years, a daunting task considering the number surpassed 1,800 last week, with no sign of slowing down.

In its new school plan, the state Department of Education listed a 95 percent reduction in emergency teacher certification as a key goal by 2025.

When the goal was set in September, which is when the school plan was finalized and submitted for federal review, Oklahoma's emergency certified teacher use was at 1,160.

"It is a goal that when reached indicates we have a strong teacher pipeline," said state Superintendent Joy Hofmeister.

Such a drastic reduction in emergency certified teachers might seem like an impossible challenge, but five years ago only 32 emergency certified teachers were used across the state.

A wave of teachers leaving the state and the profession, along with reductions in the number of new teachers entering the field, has created a hiring challenge for public school teachers in nearly all areas of the state.

Nearly a quarter of new teachers this year hold an emergency certificate

SEE TEACH, 4A

Medical students talk Nov. 14 with family members during the Anatomical Donor Service of Appreciation and Remembrance at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Oklahoma City. [PHOTOS BY SARAH PHIPPS, THE OKLAHOMAN]

OU medical students honor body donors at thanksgiving service

BY MEG WINGERTER
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University of Oklahoma's first-year medical students gathered for an unusual thanksgiving celebration earlier this month, to show appreciation to their teachers who couldn't use words.

The school holds an annual appreciation service at the end of the first semester for the families of their body donors, who can meet the students who dissected their loved ones. The families who wished to participate also had a chance to meet the students for a luncheon in August.

Taylor Campbell, a first-year student, said she has found herself looking for her donor, Arthur Buswell, in old photos displayed at the medical school. Buswell graduated from the school after serving as a medic in World War II, and

SEE DONORS, 2A

Kaily Cox presents Barbara Vauken and Brian Buswell with a rose Nov. 14 during the Anatomical Donor Service of Appreciation and Remembrance at the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine in Oklahoma City.

RETAIL *SHIFT*

Shoppers filled the Bath & Body Works at OKC Outlets on Thanksgiving. [PHOTOS BY JACK MONEY, THE OKLAHOMAN]

Retailers adjust their plans for changing shopping patterns

BY JACK MONEY
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Thanksgiving welcomed what arguably is the biggest holiday shopping weekend of the year.

It started early when a few, select retailers opened their doors. Pleasant weather helped encourage shoppers to do some exploring.

JCPenney opened its stores across the country Thursday afternoon.

At its store just across from Tinker Air Force Base in Midwest City, there was a good crowd of shoppers on hand for the event. Roy Ogden, manager of the store, said he was pleased with the turnout he saw.

"This year is the first year we carried TVs and electronics — PlayStation 4," Ogden said. "We had a

SEE DONORS, 3A

Shoppers lined up at the Nike and The North Face stores at OKC Outlets on Thanksgiving Day as they waited for the stores to open. OKC Outlets remained open overnight into Black Friday.

TODAY'S PRAYER
Heavenly Father, look with compassion on the whole human family. Grant us Your peace. Amen.

Classified	1E	Life	1D
Comics	14E	Opinion	10A
Deaths	8A	Sports	1B

NOTE: Markets were closed Thanksgiving Day. Business section returns Saturday.

Weather, 12A
SUNNY
H: 75 L: 46

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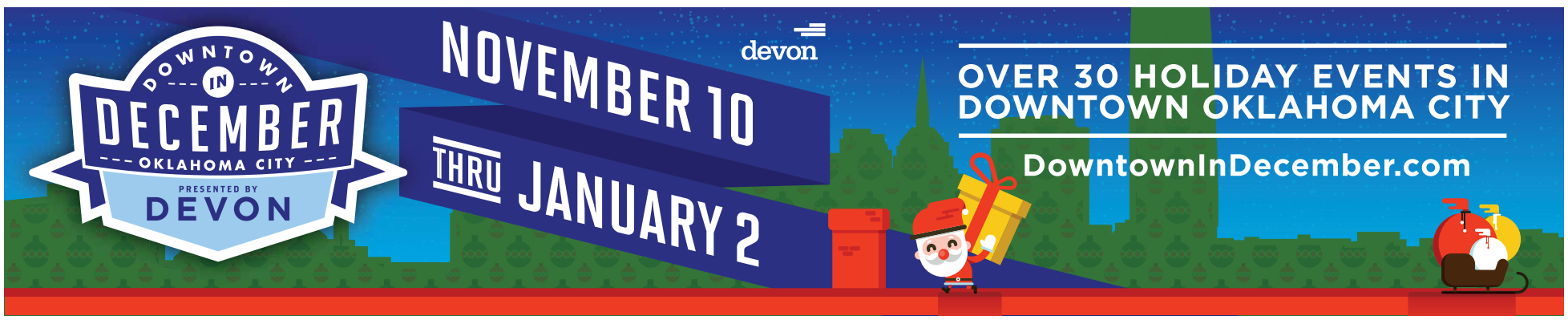
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